

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/928,441
Reply to Office Action of August 8, 2003

REMARKS

The present application contains Claims 33-38. Claims 33-36 are withdrawn from consideration and thus only Claims 37 and 38 are at issue. Claim 37 is an independent claim, amended herein, and Claim 38 is dependent thereon.

Claim 37, as now amended, is to a method of forming a plurality of wiring lines of conductive material on a board that has a core layer to form a printed circuit board. The method includes forming the plurality of wiring lines on a surface of the core layer, that has first and second portions, with the plurality of wiring lines formed on the surface of the core having a uniform thickness in height relative to the surface of the core layer. A first of said plurality of wiring lines is then etched, such that the first portion has a planar surface completely across the first portion, and is thinner in height relative to the surface of the core layer than the second portion. Such a process is not taught or suggested in the reference cited.

Applicant's claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as clearly anticipated by Barber (U.S. 4,701,363), with specific reference made in the Office Action to FIG. 7 of Barber showing etching to form depression 25 on leads.

Reconsideration and removal of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the amendment to Claim 37 and the following remarks.

A careful study of the Barber reference shows that reference teaches a process to step etching a metal tape where a depression is formed in a metal foil and a bump thus formed at the terminal portion of the tape. In FIG. 7 of Barber, a metal tape or foil layer 26 is etched such that a step or

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depression 25 is formed that extends from a bump 24 at the terminus of a lead 17. Additional depressions may also be formed in the lead 17, as shown as 25' and 25" in FIGS. 2 and 3 of Barber. The depression 25, however, formed in Barber and shown in FIG. 8 and FIG. 9 has a U-shaped configuration defined by web portion 36 having legs 37 and 38. Also, between the sides 40 and 41 is a U-shaped web portion 42 defined by a central web 43 having legs 44 and 45 (FIG. 9) extending outwardly from the web 43 in the same direction until they meet the sides 40 and 41 at their free ends 46 and 47 (see Col. 9, lines 14-31).

In the present claimed process, the first portions that are etched are planar and no depressions or cavities are present in the etched first portion. Claim 37 has been amended to specify that, the thinner first portion, after etching, "has a planar surface completely across said first portion." This arrangement results in reduction of crosstalk noise between two adjacent wiring lines. Support for the claim amendment is clearly shown in the drawings, particularly FIGS. 5A-5D showing cross-sections of the wiring lines in the method of Claims 37 and 38, with uniform thickness of the wiring lines shown (see also pages 13, line 10 to page 14, line 12 of the specification).

In view of the amendment to Claim 37 and accompanying remarks, claims 37 and 38, as amended, are believed to be in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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